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Royal Geographical Society,

1855.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL,

READ AT THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING ON THE 28TH MAY.

THE duty of submitting to the Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society a yearly statement of its progress and financial position has never been more agreeable than on the present occasion, when, favoured by the liberality of Her Majesty's Government, the Council is at length enabled to hold the Anniversary Meeting of the members of the Society in their own house, and in apartments befitting the importance of their pursuits.

Members,—Ordinary, Honorary and Corresponding.—Since the last Anniversary 72 members have been added to the lists of the Society.

In the same period the Society has lost many valuable and distinguished associates. The Council has to report the decease of one honorary member—M. Beautemps-Beaupré, and of 21 ordinary members; also to record the resignation of one ordinary member.

The Society now consists of 57 honorary and corresponding members, and 804 ordinary members.

House and Finance.—At the last Meeting the President had the satisfaction of announcing that Her Majesty's Ministers had decided to recommend a yearly grant of 500*l.* in aid of the operations of the Society, and for the purpose of rendering its Maps and Charts available for public reference; also that the Council had taken steps for carrying out arrangements in accord-

ance with the Treasury Minute. The results of these arrangements are now confidently submitted for approval. The Map-rooms are daily visited by intelligent strangers as well as by members generally, and the Meeting-room, Library, and other Offices afford facilities not before possessed for the collection and diffusion of geographical information. The Society's premises have undergone considerable alteration; and although a large expenditure has been unavoidable in making the necessary arrangements, it is very gratifying to the Council to be enabled to state, that the funds required for such purposes have been provided from the ordinary resources of the Society, and that every account has been duly discharged.

The Balance-sheet of the past year, accompanying this Report, shows a continued improvement of income under each head of receipt; whilst the expenditure, including a large portion of outlay for the new house, has not exceeded the estimates submitted at the last Anniversary.

The Auditors, after examination of the Society's accounts, testify their satisfaction at the evidence, thereby afforded, of the zeal and ability with which the duties of Secretary, in regard to the financial arrangements of the Society, have been discharged by Dr. Norton Shaw, and the diligence and good conduct of the officers engaged under his superintendence and direction.

Regulations.—The removal of the Society has rendered it liable to a claim for local rates, from which, the Council is advised, it may be relieved by incorporating in its Rules the following clause contained in the Act 6 & 7 Victoria, c. 36, viz., "That the Society shall not and may not make any dividend, gift, division, or bonus in money unto or between any of its members." The Council recommend that the addition of this clause to the Regulations be now adopted.

Publications.—The 24th volume of the Society's Journal, edited by Dr. Shaw, contains many valuable papers and maps, also a condensed notice, entitled 'Hints to Travellers,' drawn up by direction of the Council, of which separate copies may be obtained by travellers upon application to the Secretary.

The following Institutions have been added to the list of those to which the Journals of the Society are presented, viz., the

Cambridge University Library; the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh; the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire; the Bodleian Library, Oxford; and the University of Jena.

Map-rooms.—The Council gladly recognises the services of Mr. Trelawney Saunders in the removal and arrangement of the Society's extensive collection of Maps and Charts. The additions to this department during the past year consist of 7 Atlases and 225 sheets of Maps and Charts, among which may be especially noticed the new edition of Johnston's Physical Atlas; Russian Cadastral Maps, in 24 sheets; 16 additional sheets of the Government Map of Sardinia; 5 sheets of the Topographical and Military Map of Holland, prepared by the officers of the Dutch General Staff; also Charts of the South Coast of Australia and of Java, presented by the Chevalier Jacob Swart of Amsterdam, corresponding member of this Society; French Charts, 27 in number, published and presented by the Imperial Dépôt de la Marine; 7 sheets of the Trigonometrical Survey of India, by the Honourable East India Company; Greenough's Geological Map of India, in 4 sheets; Johnston's General Map of Europe; Arrowsmith's South-Western Crimea; the original Manuscript Maps by Dr. Livingston and Mr. Andersson of their routes through the interior of South Africa; and a Map of the World, constructed by order of the Council to show the routes of modern travellers.

Library.—The contributions to the Library since the last Report amount to 528 volumes of books and pamphlets, a list of which is laid upon the table, and will be printed in the Journal. In this list are comprised the following, among other important works:—Congress and United States Coast Survey Reports; Contributions to Knowledge, and other works, presented by the Smithsonian Institution; several works relating to Borneo, Malacca, and the Dutch possessions in the East, presented by the Royal Institute of Dutch India; a collection of 30 volumes, chiefly Portuguese, presented by Mr. J. W. Dover; Sir Roderick Murchison's 'Siluria,' presented by the author; works published by the Hakluyt Society; Boué's Itineraries in European Turkey; Herndon and Gibbon's works on the Amazon; Further Papers relative to recent Arctic Expedi-

tions, presented by Mr. Barrow; Transactions of the Imperial Geological Institute of Vienna; of the Lombardo-Veneto Institute of Milan; of the Academies of Paris, Madrid, Berlin, Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Christiania, as also of other foreign Societies; and Mr. Brierly's admirable sketches of the Allied Fleets in the Baltic.

Private Donation.—Testifying to the last his warm regard for the Institutions with which from their commencement he had been so intimately connected, Mr. Greenough has bequeathed to the Geological and Geographical Societies of London all his collections of books, maps, charts, sections, and engravings relating to Geology and Geography, to be suitably apportioned by his executors, together with the sum of 500*l.* to each Society for the expense of accommodating such collections and for general purposes.

On receipt by the Geographical Society of its portion of this munificent bequest, arrangements will forthwith be made by the Council for carrying into effect, with respect to it, the wishes of the Testator.

Royal Premium.—The Patron's Gold Medal has been awarded to Dr. Livingston for his recent explorations in Africa, between Lake Ngami and the Portuguese settlements on the West Coast; and a Testimonial of the value of Twenty-five Guineas in Surveying Instruments, bearing a suitable inscription, to Mr. Charles John Andersson, for his travels in South-Western Africa, as laid down in his route-map communicated to the Society.

The Council has finally to notice a communication from the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education, requesting the Society to appoint an Examiner in Geography, to be associated with Professor Mosely and Mr. Sandford. The Council having, in accordance with this requisition, directed Dr. Shaw to act in conjunction with the Government Inspectors for the purposes specified in their Lordships' communication, a letter of thanks, for the valuable assistance rendered by him at the April examination, has been transmitted to the Society.

BALANCE-SHEET FOR THE YEAR 1854.

Receipts.

	£.	s.	d.
Subscriptions of 354 Fellows	708	0	0
Compositions of 23 Fellows	575	0	0
Entrance Fees of 104 Fellows	312	0	0
Government Grant	500	0	0
Journals and Indices sold	124	18	6
Arrears of Subscriptions paid	90	0	0
Dividends on 2000*l.* 3¼ per Cent.	62	3	2
Royal Premium Grant	52	10	0
East India Company's Contribution	50	0	0
Expedition Account repaid	75	0	0
Sundries	15	16	0
Bankers' Balance, 1st January, 1854	772	12	3
Petty Cash	14	5	8
	£3352	5	7

Expenditure.

				£.	s.	d.
Removal and Building Expenses				588	13	7
House Rent and Fixtures				533	7	1
Salaries—Secretary and Clerks				443	0	0
Journal and Illustrations				338	18	11
Wages and Collector's Poundage				69	16	0
Office Expenses				138	11	8
Royal Premium—Cost of Medals				46	14	0
Books, Binding, and Diagrams				21	17	0
Sundries overpaid and returned				17	1	0
Bankers' Balance, 31st Dec., 1854	£1178	12	9			
Less Petty Cash overpaid	24	6	5			
				1154	6	4
				£3352	5	7

ROBERT BIDDULPH, *Treasurer.*

Examined and found correct.
15, Whitehall Place, 22nd March, 1855.

THOS. H. BROOKING,
WM. H. SMYTH,
E. OSBORNE SMITH, } *Auditors.*

ESTIMATE FOR THE YEAR 1855.

Receipts.

	£.	s.	d.
Annual Subscriptions	700	0	0
Life Compositions	150	0	0
Entrance Fees	180	0	0
Arrears of Subscriptions	50	0	0
Sales of Journals and Indices	100	0	0
Dividends on Stock	60	0	0
Royal Premium	52	10	0
Government Grant	500	0	0
Greenough Bequest	500	0	0
Cash Balance, 1st January, 1855	1154	6	4
	£3,446	16	4

Expenditure.

	£.	s.	d.
Balance of Removal Expenses	800	0	0
Rent, Wages, Lights and Fires	600	0	0
Salaries	600	0	0
Journal and Illustrations	600	0	0
Office Expenses	200	0	0
Royal Premium Awards	52	10	0
Fire Assurance and Advertisements	50	0	0
Library and Map Rooms	500	0	0
Sundries for Balance	44	6	4
	£3,446	16	4

NORTON SHAW, *Secretary.*